



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Longfellow  
National Historic Site

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## Longfellow NHS News Release

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### Longfellow National Historic Site Celebrates Family Day with a “Teddy Bear Picnic” on September 19

Longfellow National Historic Site announces its annual Family Day celebration featuring a “TEDDY BEAR PICNIC” in honor of the 100th birthday of Horace, the Longfellow family teddy bear. The event takes place on Sunday, September 19, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on the grounds of Longfellow House, 105 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA. All activities are FREE to the public -- NO reservations are necessary. Families are especially welcome! For details and directions, call Longfellow National Historic Site at (617)876-4491 or visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/long](http://www.nps.gov/long).

Frances Wetherell, great granddaughter of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Horace’s guardian, will join Horace in greeting guests, reminiscing about happy times together, and posing for pictures. Born in 1904, Horace is a Steiff bear originally owned by Mrs. Wetherell’s mother, Priscilla. During his long life, Horace has met many famous people such as President Theodore Roosevelt, poet e.e. cummings, and the composer Randall Thompson. Horace also grew up surrounded by Longfellow family members, including “grave Alice, laughing Allegra, and Edith with golden hair” — the three daughters of Henry W. Longfellow made famous in his poem “The Children’s Hour.”

(MORE)

**Family Day activities on September 19 include:**

- Storytelling with Brother Blue, Boston and Cambridge's official storyteller/street poet
- 19th century games such as "Hoops and Graces"
- Painting and drawing in the Longfellow Garden
- Poetry writing
- Junior Ranger activities
- Birthday refreshments

At 4:00 p.m., a representative of the New England Poetry Club will announce the winners of the Student Poetry competition, an annual contest funded by the Friends of the Longfellow House. Winners will be invited to read their poems. In honor of Horace, "Teddy Bear" poems will also be read throughout the afternoon.

Birthday guests are encouraged to bring picnic lunches and blankets. NO on-site parking is available with the exception of limited handicapped parking. Longfellow National Historic Site is a short walk from the MBTA Red Line station at Harvard Square (10 minutes). Call (617) 876-4491 for more information or visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/long](http://www.nps.gov/long).

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Use a second sheet if necessary. Replace this text with your text set in 10.5/18 NPS Rawlinson, or the text style “Content” in the Style menu. Paragraphs are not indented but are separated by a full return. The rest is dummy text. Poet, minstrel, lecturer, biographer, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, he had spent his lifetime championing social justice and the American people through his writings and his singing. Although, at 67, he was at an age when many people retire, Sandburg was still actively working. Sandburg’s wife, Lilian, had discovered the mountain farm named Connemara with their youngest daughter, Helga.

The farm had everything the family wanted, including a gentle climate and ample pasture for Mrs. Sandburg’s goat herd and seclusion for her husband’s writing. Carl Sandburg would call it home for 22 years. The estate had a long history—an ironic history for the biographer of Abraham Lincoln—for Christopher Memminger, who built the main residence around 1838, had served from 1861 to 1864 as Secretary of the Confederate Treasury. The second occupant was textile tycoon Ellison Smyth who named it Connemara to honor his Irish ancestry. Smyth’s heirs sold it to the Sandburgs. The Sandburgs moved from Michigan with their three daughters, two grandchildren, a library of more than 14,000 volumes, and the Chikaming goat herd.